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TIME for KiDS

WHAT A MESS!

Trillions of pieces of debris are circling Earth. They're a danger to spacecraft.

This illustration shows space junk floating in Earth's orbit.

VISIT…

FACING CHARGES Donald Trump appears in court with his lawyers on April 4.

SETH WENIG—AFP/GETTY IMAGES/POOL

TFK EXPLAINS: TRUMP'S LEGAL TROUBLES

On April 4, Donald Trump was indicted by a grand jury in New York. He is the first current or former United States president to be charged with criminal activity. Here are the details.

What is an indictment?
An indictment is when someone is formally charged with committing a crime. In this case, the charges were brought by Manhattan district attorney Alvin Bragg, in New York. A grand jury of 23 people decided there's enough evidence against Trump to charge him with crimes.

What are the charges?
Trump has been charged with 34 felonies, or serious crimes. New York prosecutors say Trump and his company created false business records. This was done, they say, to commit a bigger crime: to influence the 2016 presidential election. Prosecutors say Trump falsified records to hide payments made to someone who said she had negative information about him. They say he wanted to keep this information secret, to improve his chances of winning the election. "We cannot and will not normalize serious criminal conduct," Bragg says.

How has Trump responded?
Trump appeared in court before Judge Juan Merchan, in New York City, to hear the charges against him. He pleaded not guilty to all of them. Then he was allowed to return to his home in Florida. A trial will take place later. At that time, a jury will decide whether Trump is guilty of the charges.

When will the trial happen?
Bragg's office has asked Judge Merchan to schedule the trial for January 2024. Trump's lawyers are asking for the spring of that year. Legal experts expect the trial will last well into 2024. That would be the presidential campaign season. Trump has announced he'll run for a second term as president.

Can Trump run for president even though he has been charged with crimes?
Yes. There are no laws that prohibit someone charged with a crime from running for president, even if that person is found guilty and sentenced to prison.

Is Trump facing other legal troubles?
Yes. For example, prosecutors in Georgia are investigating whether Trump illegally interfered in the state's 2020 presidential election. Federal investigations include Trump's handling of classified documents, and his actions leading up to the storming of the U.S. Capitol, on January 6, 2021.

Stop and Think!

WHY is this article organized in a question-and-answer format? Do you find this format helpful? Why or why not?

COVER: JOHAN63—GETTY IMAGES

What's Your Sports Story?

TIME KIDS PRESS CLUB
GET THE SCOOP!

As the temperatures are getting warmer, spring and summer sports seasons are starting up. A news story about sports can take many different approaches. A sports journalist might write a profile of a player. A reporter might cover the highlights of a recent game or analyze statistics to predict what might happen in an upcoming game or season. And don't forget: Sports news is about more than just major events and big-league teams. It also covers minor-league teams, kids' leagues, and sporting trends, like the rising interest in pickleball.

HOME RUN A Caribbean Region player bats in the 2022 Little League World Series. This year's series will start on August 16.

ERICK W. RASCO—SPORTS ILLUSTRATED/GETTY IMAGES

Junior Journalists, we want to know:

What's your sports story? Is there an athlete you'd like to interview or write about? Do you have news to report about one of your local sports teams? Ask a teacher, parent, or guardian to share your story with us at *timeforkids.com/tfkpressclub* or *tfkpressclub@time.com*.

MARK FELIX—AFP/GETTY IMAGES IMAGES

SNAPSHOT

TO THE MOON It's official! Astronauts Jeremy Hansen, Victor Glover, Reid Wiseman, and Christina Hammock Koch have been selected as the Artemis II crew. The announcement was made on April 3, in Houston, Texas. The four will travel around the moon on board NASA's *Orion* spacecraft. The mission will last 10 days. It's scheduled to launch sometime in late 2024.

BE A TFK KID REPORTER

Do you dream of being a reporter? Enter the TFK KID REPORTER CONTEST for a chance to report for our magazines and website. TFK editors will choose up to 10 talented students as TFK Kid Reporters for the 2023–2024 school year. To apply online or by mail, ask a parent, guardian, or teacher for details. Learn more at *timeforkids.com/kid-reporter*.

NEWS STORIES MAY INCLUDE REPORTING FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

BROKEN PART In 1997, this Russian space station was damaged in a collision with space junk.

PASSING DANGER A piece of debris sails high over Earth. It was spotted by the Space Shuttle *Columbia* in 1986.

SCREEN SHOT A monitor at the European Space Agency shows debris floating in Earth's orbit.

OUT OF THE SKY A hunk of space junk (left) stands in a field in Australia in July 2022. It burned as it fell through Earth's atmosphere.

Power Words

detriment *noun*: damage; harm

treaty *noun*: an official agreement between countries or parties

COLLISION COURSE

Scientists are sounding the alarm over a growing trash problem in space.

Sixty-six years ago, there was one human-built object in Earth's orbit. It was Sputnik, the world's first satellite, launched in October 1957. Try to guess how many human-made objects are circling the planet now. Ready?

Your answer is wrong, unless you guessed 100 trillion. That's a jaw-dropping number. It was provided by an international team of researchers writing in the journal *Science*. For years, this junk has formed an ever-growing mass near Earth. It's a danger to spacecraft. The researchers are calling for a global treaty to limit the number of satellites and the amount of rubbish in space.

"There is no international treaty that seeks to minimize orbital debris," the scientists write. They say that must change—and fast. "We need collective cooperation, informed by science, to develop a timely, legally binding treaty to protect Earth's orbit."

HIGH-SPEED DANGER

There are 9,000 active satellites in orbit, the scientists report. That could grow to more than 60,000 by 2030. The rest of that 100 trillion figure includes everything from used-up booster rockets and stray bolts to metal flecks and paint chips.

Don't think a paint chip is harmless. Traveling at 17,500 miles per hour, it can strike a spacecraft hard. The International Space Station is dotted with dents and holes. Astronauts often take shelter in an attached spacecraft to wait out a passing swarm of space debris. That way, if the station is severely damaged, they can bail out in a hurry.

All of this debris will eventually fall to Earth and burn up in the atmosphere. But we're replacing the junk more quickly than it's falling.

FINDING A FIX

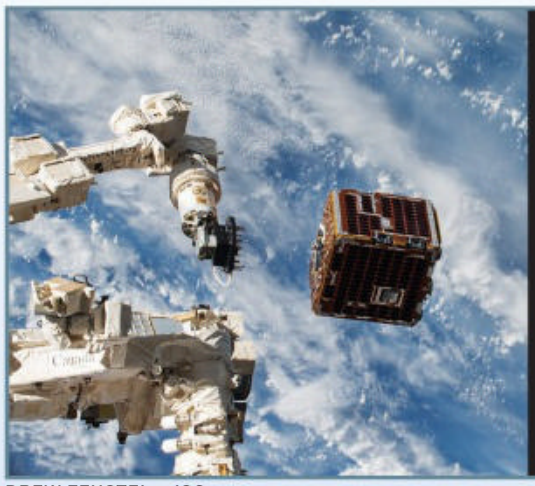
The mess we've made in space is like the mess we've made in the oceans. Think of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. It's a mass of floating junk twice the size of Texas. We've had centuries to foul the oceans. But it has taken just decades for us to do the same in space.

That's why the *Science* authors include experts in satellite technology and in ocean plastic pollution. "As a marine biologist, I never imagined writing a paper on space," Heather Koldewey writes. She works at the Zoological Society of London. Cleaning up space, she says, has a lot in common "with the challenges of tackling environmental issues in the ocean."

Koldewey and her coauthors see hope for space. They look to the effort to clean up the oceans. In March 2022, 170 countries signed a global plastics treaty at the United Nations. This is an agreement to dump less plastic in the oceans and get rid of what's already there. There could be similar rules for how much debris a launch can create. Old satellites could be taken out of space. And technologies could be developed for cleaning up the rubbish. (See "Trash Collector.")

Coauthor Moriba Jah is an aerospace engineering professor at the University of Texas at Austin. "Marine debris and space debris," he writes, are both a human-made "detriment that is avoidable."

—By Jeffrey Kluger for TIME, adapted by TFK editors



DREW FEUSTEL—JSC

TRASH COLLECTOR

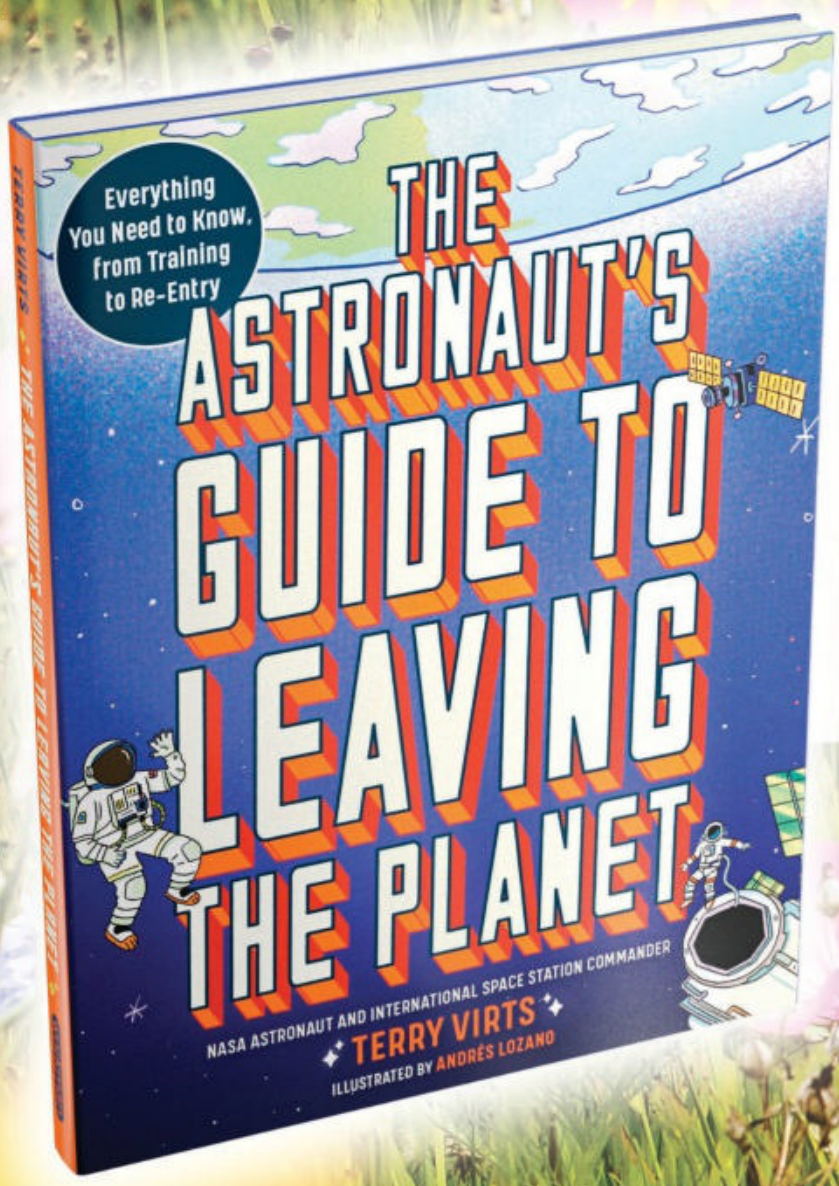
In 2018, scientists on the International Space Station tested the RemoveDebris satellite. In this picture, robotic arms push the device into space. The satellite measures about three feet on each side. It uses a 3D camera to track the location and speed of floating debris. Then it fires a net to capture the junk, which falls and burns up in the Earth's atmosphere.

The test was a success. It may have brought the world a step closer to a safer orbit.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: NASA/GETTY IMAGES; SPACE FRONTIERS/ARCHIVE PHOTOS/HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES; BRAD TUCKER—AFP/GETTY IMAGES IMAGES

SPRING READS

We asked TFK Kid Reporters to review some of the year's best books so far. Here's what they had to say.

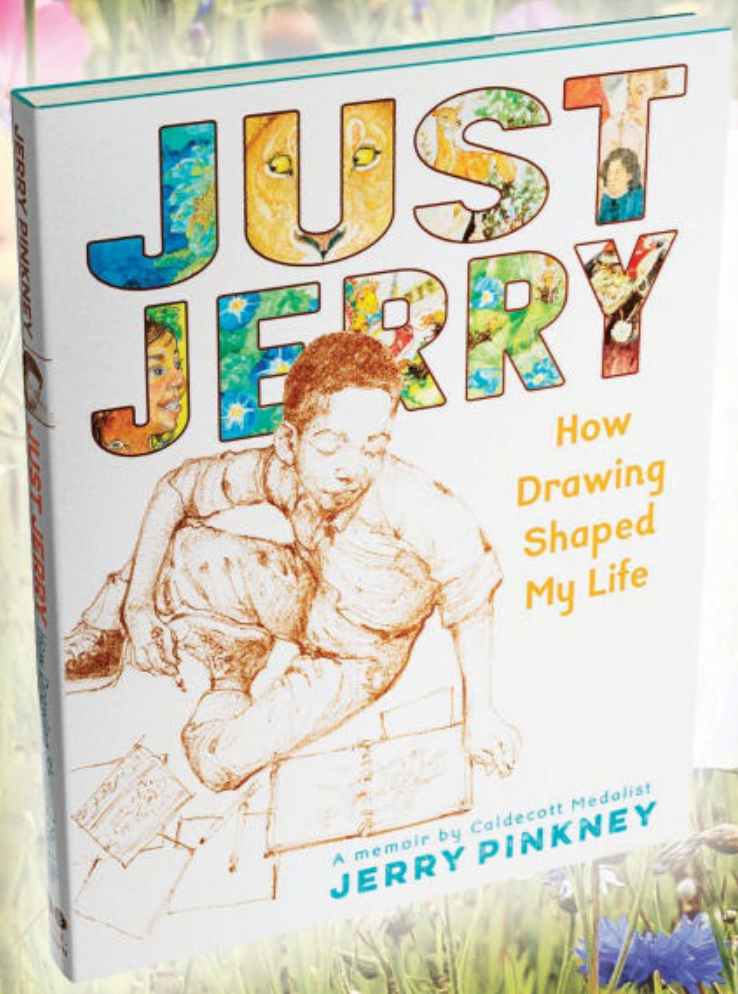

Everything You Need to Know, from Training to Re-Entry
THE ASTRONAUT'S GUIDE TO LEAVING THE PLANET
NASA ASTRONAUT AND INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION COMMANDER
TERRY VIRTS
ILLUSTRATED BY ANDRÉS LOZANO

THE ASTRONAUT'S GUIDE TO LEAVING THE PLANET

Have you ever imagined somersaulting through zero gravity and frolicking in a space station that you call home? Astronaut and mission pilot **TERRY VIRTS** has actually done these things—and more! In *The Astronaut's Guide to Leaving the Planet,* he paints a vibrant picture of life aboard the International Space Station. And he describes what it takes to conduct a successful mission. Young space enthusiasts will enjoy this guide. Aspiring astronauts will treasure it. *—By TFK Kid Reporter Zarita Asgar*

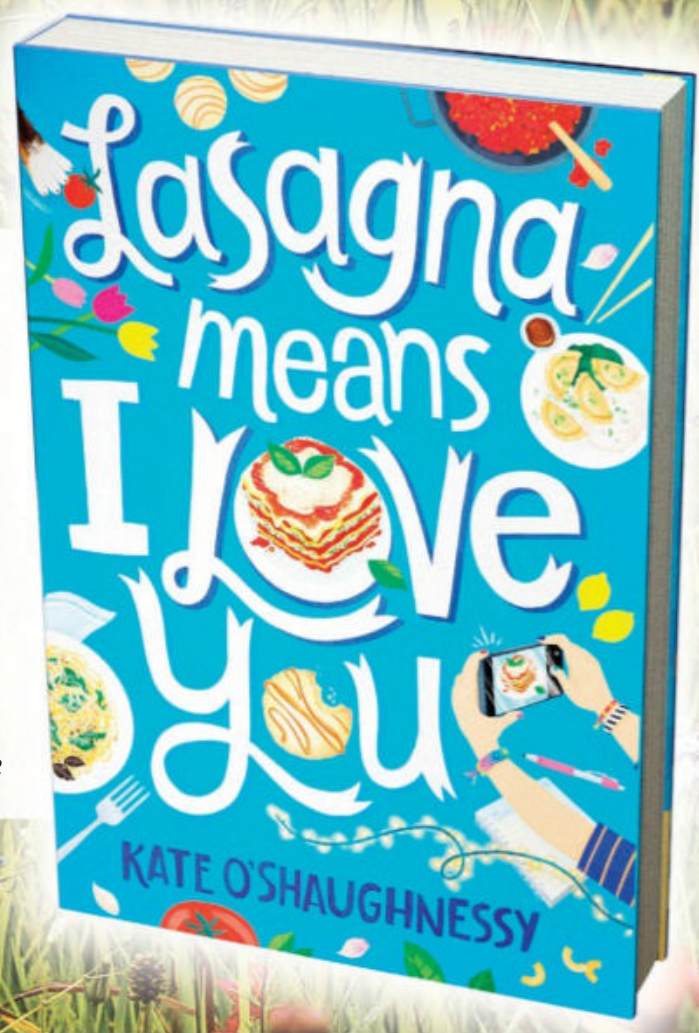
THE ENCHANTED LIFE OF VALENTINA MEJÍA

In this fast-paced adventure by **ALEXANDRA ALESSANDRI,** 12-year-old Valentina and her brother Julian are dragged along by their *papi* on a hunt for mysterious creatures. Falling into another world during an earthquake, they discover a different, magical Colombia. Valentina learns that all of the legends about her country are true. But will they be able to leave this realm and return home? This engrossing book will appeal to readers who enjoy fantasy, thrillers, and mythology. *—By TFK Kid Reporter Shaivi Moparthi*



JUST JERRY

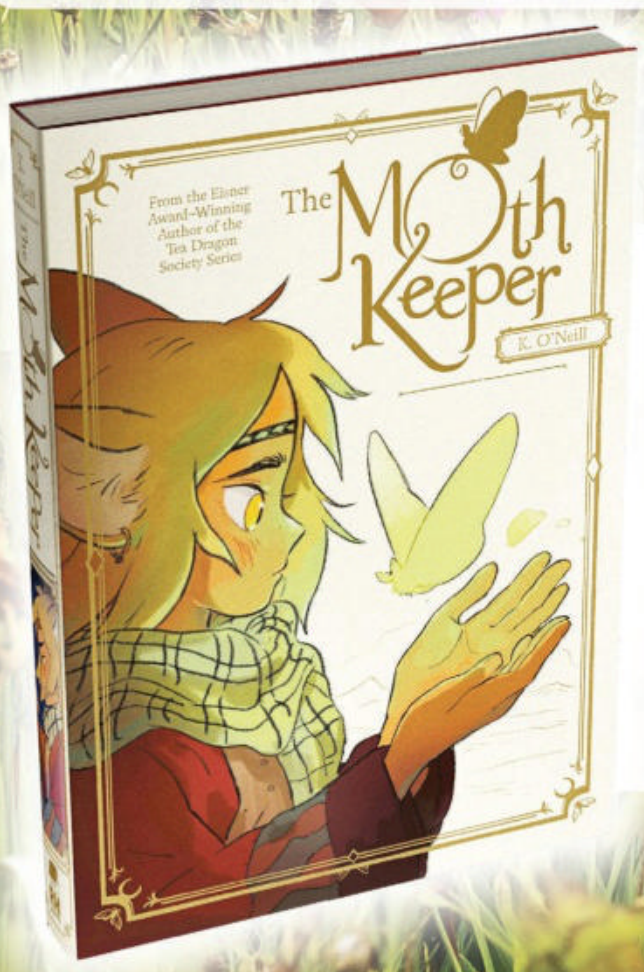
Just Jerry is a memoir by Caldecott Medal–winning author and illustrator **JERRY PINKNEY.** He writes about growing up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during the 1940s and '50s. Drawing was his refuge. Pinkney faced racial discrimination and struggled with dyslexia, but he always pursued his artistic calling. When he got a job at a newsstand, his boss gave him an opportunity to draw and sell his work. Pinkney was able to go to college to study art, and eventually built a career in publishing. *Just Jerry* is an inspiring read about a man who was one of the most celebrated artists of our time. *—By TFK Kid Reporter Aiden An*



LASAGNA MEANS I LOVE YOU

In this touching realistic novel by **KATE O'SHAUGHNESSY,** it has always been Mo and her spunky grandma, Nan, against the world. But after Nan dies, Mo's uncle can no longer take care of her, and Mo goes into foster care. To deal with these changes, she starts cooking, using family recipes she collects from friends and through her food blog. There's only one problem: She doesn't have family recipes of her own. In her quest to define what really makes a family, Mo learns there's no perfect recipe.

—By TFK Kid Reporter Celsey O'Hare



THE MOTH KEEPER

The Moth Keeper is a graphic novel by **K. O'NEILL.** It tells the story of a young girl named Anya. She's beginning her duties as the new moth keeper for her desert village. The Moon Moths help Anya's community survive, and it's her to job protect them. All alone, Anya keeps watch throughout the night. Will she be able to confront the challenges that come her way? Readers who like fantasy stories with colorful, dreamy illustrations will enjoy this book. *—By TFK Kid Reporter Shaan Glazer*

3D PHOTO ILLUSTRATIONS OF BOOK COVERS BY STEPHEN BLUE FOR TIME FOR KIDS (5); BACKGROUND: MICHAEL DITTEL—EYEEM/GETTY IMAGES

OH, BROTHER!

TFK Kid Reporter Aiden An talks with two of the stars of the new Super Mario Bros. movie.

Mario and Luigi are back, in *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*. The computer-animated adventure follows Mario's quest through the Mushroom Kingdom. He's there to rescue his brother Luigi from the clutches of the fire-breathing Bowser. Mario's companions are Princess Peach and Toad.

CHARLIE DAY voices Luigi. He's excited about the film. "I can bring something that I loved as a kid to *my* kid, and we can share it," he says. Day and **CHRIS PRATT,** who voices Mario, played the Super Mario Bros. video game when they were young. That's part of the thrill of being in the movie. "For guys like us, who grew up playing this game," Pratt says, "it's like a thread in the fabric of our youth."

But the movie does more than transcend time, Pratt says. Through Mario's story, it teaches viewers to believe in themselves and face their fears. "Oftentimes, you hear someone say, 'Boy, you just don't quit, do you?' As if it's a negative thing," Pratt says. "I like the idea that never quitting is actually a very positive thing."

Voicing animated characters proved a unique challenge for both actors. "When you're doing voice-over acting, you're not reacting to another person," Day says. "So you have to sort of imagine that other person in your head." Pratt says it helped to take his shoes off during vocal warm-ups. "My bare feet really feel the ground beneath me," he says. "I get to gesticulate with my hands. And I make wild facial expressions. I would never allow myself to make them if I were on camera." He's proud of the final result. "You want to make sure you see the film on the biggest screen possible because it's really visually stunning."

So grab your family and friends—of any age—and check out this heartwarming, action-packed adventure. Pratt and Day say it will make viewers crave the original games.

The Super Mario Bros. Movie is in theaters now.

MAGICAL WORLD Mario enters the Mushroom Kingdom, in search of brother Luigi, in *The Super Mario Bros. Movie.*

2023 NINTENDO AND UNIVERSAL STUDIOS (2)

PLUMBERS UNITE Christ Pratt (left) and Charlie Day play Mario and Luigi in the movie.

INSET FROM LEFT: RODIN ECKENROTH—GETTY IMAGES; PHILLIP FARAONE—FILMMAGIC/GETTY IMAGES

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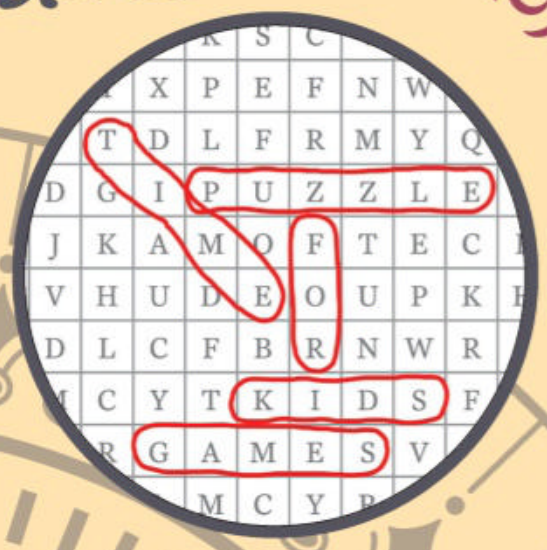

GAMES AND PUZZLES

BORDER: EXTEZY/GETTY IMAGES. BACKGROUND CIRCLE: FOURLEAFLOVER/GETTY IMAGES. FONTS FROM TOP: VECTORDIVIDER/GETTY IMAGES; EPIFANTSEV/GETTY IMAGES; MICROVONE/GETTY IMAGES. CHESS PIECE: CSA IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES. PASIEKA/SPL/GETTY IMAGES

Name That Movie Character

Can you name these movie characters? Make a list!

Character Word Bank

Bob, *Minions*
Buzz Lightyear, *Lightyear*
Emmet, *The Lego Movie*
Olaf, *Frozen*
Paddington, *Paddington*
Professor Dumbledore, the Harry Potter series

WORLD OF VECTOR/GETTY IMAGES; KEVIN WINTER–GETTY IMAGES; GREGG DEGUIRE–GETTY IMAGES; AFP/GETTY IMAGES; GERARDO MORA–GETTY IMAGES; GABE GINSBERG–GETTY IMAGES; GARETH CATTERMOLE–GETTY IMAGES

Through the Hoop

One of these pictures does not have a match.
Find it! Then make up a story about it.

BORTONIA/GETTY IMAGES; FUHONRA/GETTY IMAGES

ANSWER KEY

NAME THAT MOVIE CHARACTER

1. Bob, *Minions*

2. Emmet, *The Lego Movie*

3. Professor Dumbledore, the Harry Potter series

4. Olaf, *Frozen*

5. Buzz Lightyear, *Lightyear*

6. Paddington, *Paddington*

THROUGH THE HOOP